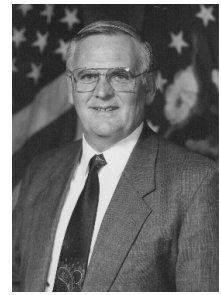


# NOTES FROM THE:

## Deputy Assistant Secretary, Financial Operations

by Mr John J. Nethery



Annual Planning and Programming Guidance (APPG) Reengineering Master Schedule. The Air Force Center for Quality and Management Innovation at San Antonio has been tasked to assist in reengineering all career fields. As we continue to posture for the future, faced with the fiscal reality of no real growth, we must relook our critical manpower requirements and how we are doing business across the Air Force. The APPG is focused on reengineering processes to eliminate unfunded manpower authorizations. Since the Air Force top line won't increase, the expectation is that workload will be reduced/eliminated. FM is scheduled to start reengineering efforts of our manpower standards in FY02. Resulting standards must be approved by the Air Force Council. This could get accelerated as we press forward with other functionals proposals and intensified working with Air Force Center for Quality and Management, and striving not to be last. Some proposals even include merging career fields to consolidate like efforts and improve/increase efficiencies.

Advanced Academic Degrees and PMCS Quotas. We just completed the FY01 Air Force Education Requirements Board process where each functional was awarded Masters/PhD funded quotas. This same process also allocates our PMCS quotas. We fared well on the Advanced Academic Degrees, obtaining 14 Master Degrees in Cost. This is an increase of 5 over last year. Other functionals received either the same amount as last year or less. PMCS was a different story. Inputs received from the commands came nowhere near what we expected. Out of our usual 130 funded quotas the commands only came in with requests totaling 30. We had to battle up from there against the other functionals. In the end, we received 117 funded quotas. The reduction was primarily due to funding constraints and repricing of course costs. The lack of justified inputs from commands did not help either.

CY00 Comptroller Commander Selection Board. Congratulations to all those selected by the recent board held in October. A list of selectees can be found on the SAF/FM web page. Overall the board selected 60 officers to fill 36 command vacancies. Judging from the last Lt Col selection board, the command prefix is a true discriminator.

Financial Management Web-Based Training. We recently conducted a workshop to review and update the

current Resource Advisor Tutorial (<http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/saffmra/index.html>). Efforts of the workshop will result in a substantially revised (and improved) Resource Advisor Course. This course will contain detailed financial management topics presented as stand alone modules. These modules will allow users a smaller chunk of material to digest as well as receive an associated module completion certificate. The certificate, among other information, will identify continuing professional education (CPE) credit for the module. Once the revised Resource Advisory Course is complete, the current Resource Advisor Tutorial will be renamed and serve as an Introduction to Financial Management. Other web-based courses in development include Fiscal Law, Certifying Officer, RA OJT Training Guides, Comptroller Contingency Training, and Fraud Prevention. Our current web-based courses are the Resource Advisors Tutorial: <http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/saffmra/index.html> and Antideficiency Act Investigator Training: <http://www.saffm.org/ada/entry.htm>.

Travel Card. Our AF Internet experts from AF/SC are working with the Bank of America (BoA) technical experts to monitor the connectivity between bases and the BoA EAGLS system. Various tests are being conducted to monitor speed and accessibility to the EAGLS site. It is our hope that this will help us find and fix the various problems we hear APCs are having with EAGLS.

Centrally Billed Accounts (CBAs). You will start to see increased attention in getting the backlog of CBAs paid current. BoA assured us they have sent all CBA bills to the bases through September 1999. BoA offered to waive prompt payment act (PPA) interest if all CBA invoices were paid by 31 December 1999. Request each base monitor their CBAs to assure extra attention is given to prompt payment.

Annual Bank and Credit Union Awards. This year's annual Best Bank and Credit Union awards were given to the Sheppard Bank, Sheppard AFB TX and Keesler Federal Credit Union, Keesler AFB MS, respectively. Congratulations to both of these financial institutions for their outstanding financial service to the men and women serving the Air Force. An additional award was given this year to the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA) in recognition of their 50th Birth


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day. The picture (shown below) shows (from right to left) Michael Weber, SAF/FMPB, giving a plaque to AMBA President Wayne Andrews and Executive VP Henry (Hank) Neil at a recent AMBA workshop.



System Administrators. The effort to put a contracted system administrator at every base is progressing smoothly and the feedback from the bases have rated it a success. Complete deployment to all bases is expected by the end of FY00. The contractors have initiated 24-hour, 7-day a week, help desk support for all system administrators. The contractors will be collecting detailed data on base FM systems. We ask you support this effort, as it will assist them in providing help desk functions and target trouble areas.

Paperless Contracting. If you haven't already noticed at your bases, the contracting community is going paperless fast. Dr Hamre, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, has formed a paperless contracting IPT which is tracking and reporting on all aspects and levels of contracting. FM is a strong supporter of this effort by planning to fully deploy ABSS by FY01 and providing scanners to 50 select bases. Scanners were shipped to these base FSOs during the first week of November. Your strong support and use of ABSS and these scanners will help contracting reach their paperless goals. 



Mr John Nethery, SAF/FMP, presenting Senior Master Sergeant George M. Varga, SAF/FMPC, with the DFAS Senior NCO of the Year Award for the Air Force Element for his performance at Limestone Operating Location. Looking on is Col Thomas H. Cecil, SAF/FMPC.

Congratulations also to SMS Varga on his recent selection to Chief Master Sergeant. 